

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In view of the amendments and remarks herein, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. By this Amendment, claims 1, 8, and 15 have been amended and claims 3-4, 10-11, and 17 have been cancelled. Thus, claims 1-2, 5-9, 12-16, and 18-20 are pending for further examination, although claims 5-7, 12-14, and 18-20 are pending and withdrawn.

Claims 1, 3-4, 8, 10-11, 15, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Yamaguchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,243,482) in view of Furuichi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,731,462), and claims 2, 9, and 16 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Yamaguchi and Furuichi in view of Coon (U.S. Publication No. 2001/001393). These rejections are respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

At the outset, Applicant respectfully submits that Figs. 1, 3, and 5 and col. 7, lines 28-30 of Yamaguchi do not teach or suggest a “suspension assembly, comprising . . . a slider fixture formed on the suspension to couple with portions of at least two surfaces of the slider other than a surface facing the data storage medium and other than a surface having a set of connecting pads,” and that neither Furuichi nor Coon make up for these deficiencies with respect to Yamaguchi. Thus, Applicant does not acquiesce to the propriety of the outstanding § 103 rejections.

In any event, claim 1 has been amended to recite, *inter alia*, “the slider fixture has a first side forming plate formed to cover a first side surface of the slider and a second side forming plate formed to cover a second side surface of the slider, the first and second side forming plates being substantially parallel to, spaced apart from, and covering the first and second side surfaces of the slider along substantially the entire horizontal portion thereof and along a substantial

vertical portion thereof.” Independent claims 8 and 15 have been amended to recite similar features. See, Fig. 3c, for example, which shows side plates 302 and 306 being substantially parallel to the side surfaces of the slider 110, with the side plates 302 and 306 covering the first and second side surfaces of the slider along substantially the entire horizontal portion thereof and along a substantial vertical portion thereof. These features are not taught or suggested by Yamaguchi and Furuichi, with or without Coon. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Yamaguchi and Furuichi, with or without Coon do not render obvious claims 1, 8, and 15 (and their respective dependents).

None of Figs. 1, 3, and 5 of Yamaguchi teach or suggest the above-identified subject matter of the independent claims. Even elements 55 and 56 in Fig. 7 of Yamaguchi does not teach or suggest this arrangement. Element 56 is not substantially parallel to and spaced apart from side surfaces of the slider 1 in Yamaguchi, nor does it cover the first and second side surfaces of the slider along substantially the entire horizontal portion thereof and along a substantial vertical portion thereof. As shown perhaps most clearly in Fig. 8 of Yamaguchi, element 55 also fails to meet these specifically claimed characteristics. Thus, Yamaguchi clearly does not teach or suggest this subject matter of claims 1, 8, and 15 (and their respective dependents).

Furuichi and Coon are similarly lacking and thus do not make up for the above-noted deficiencies of Yamaguchi. Yamaguchi and Furuchi, with or without Coon, thus fails to teach or suggest each and every feature of claims 1, 8, and 15 (and their respective dependents) and therefore fails to render obvious these claims (and their respective dependents). Reconsideration and withdrawal of all outstanding § 103 rejections therefore are respectfully requested.


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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this application, or deem that any formalities need to be addressed prior to allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the phone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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